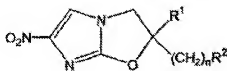


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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: applicants claim compounds of formula (I), the closest art is WO 97/01562 discloses a nitro imidazole compound. However, the basic structural formula of current formula (I) is different from that of "562" as shown below.



compared to



... Thus,

instant compounds are neither taught nor anticipated by the prior art of record.

Additionally, withdrawn claims have been allowed in view of the lack of art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EBENEZER O. SACKEY whose telephone number is (571)272-0704. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30-4.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. James O. Wilson can be reached on 571-272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/EBENEZER O SACKEY/

Examiner, Art Unit 1624

/JAMES O. WILSON/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1624